

Message Text

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R 240148Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T STATE 122220

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT MANAMA 574 ACTION SECSTATE 20 MAY.

QUOTE

S E C R E T MANAMA 0574

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS : EAID,MARR,BA

SUBJECT : BAHRAIN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

REFERENCE : STATE 115879

1. AFTER CLEARING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER, WHO WILL BE IN IRAQ WITH CROWN PRINCE FOR REST OF THIS WEEK, I APPROACHED DEVELOPMENT MINISTER SHIRAWI MAY 19 TO "FORMALLY OPEN" TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM NEGOTIATIONS. DRAWING ON REFTEL, I LAID OUT WITH COMPLETE CANDOR TIMING PROBLEM WE ARE FACING VIS-A-VIS MIDDLE EAST FORCE NEGOTIATIONS AND USE OF FY 75 FUNDS FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. I STRESSED THAT, WHILE I HAD TO ADMIT TO HAVING TRIED ON PERSONAL BASIS TO "PRESSURE" GOB

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TO CONCLUDE MIDDLE EAST FORCE NEGOTIATIONS, GOB MUST CLEARLY UNDERSTAND USG IS NOT TRYING TO PRESSURE GOB IN THIS REGARD.

USG ACCEPTS IN GOOD FAITH FOREIGN MINISTER'S ASSURANCES RE
GOB'S GOOD INTENTIONS TOWARD RETAINING MIDDLE EAST FORCE.
USG RECOGNIZES GOB FEELS IT HAS A PARLIAMENTARY PROBLEM.
WHILE WE MAY NOT AGREE WITH TACTIC OF DELAYING CONCLUSION
NEGOTIATIONS TO DEAL WITH PARLIAMENTARY PROBLEM, WE RESPECT
GOB'S JUDGEMENT ON HOW TO DEAL WITH ITS OWN PARLIAMENT. ON
OTHER HAND, WE HAVE A CONGRESSIONAL PROBLEM WITH RESPECT TO
USE OF FY 75 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FUNDS HERE IN ABSENCE
FORMAL CONCLUSION MIDDLE EAST FORCE NEGOTIATIONS. WE ARE
PREPARED TO COMMENCE NEGOTIATING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AGREE-
MENT BUT GOB MUST UNDERSTAND JUNE 13 IS OR DEADLINE FOR
INFORMING CONGRESS IF WE ARE TO USE FY 75 FUNDS AND, HENCE,
BE ABLE TO PLACE ADVISORS HERE THIS CALENDAR YEAR. WE HAVE
CONCLUDED IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO APPROACH CONGRESS ON TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR BAHRAIN IN ABSENCE SATISFACTORY
CONCLUSION MIDDLE EAST FORCE NEGOTIATIONS. GOB MAY NOT AGREE
WITH THIS ASSESSMENT BUT WE ARE CONFIDENT GOB WILL RESPECT
OUR JUDGEMENT ON HOW TO DEAL WITH U.S. CONGRESS IN SAME
MANNER IN WHICH WE RESPECT GOB'S JUDGEMENT IN DEALING WITH
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

2. I FURTHER STRESSED THAT, WHILE I WAS PREPARED TO PROCEED
WITH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE DISCUSSIONS, GOB MUST UNDERSTAND
THAT IF WE FAILED TO MEET FY 75 DEADLINE BECAUSE OF PROBLEM
NOTED ABOVE, WE AND GOB MIGHT JUST HAVE TO WAIT FOR A YEAR
UNTIL U.S. TECHNICAL ADVISORS ARRIVE.

3. SHIRAWI SAID HE UNDERSTOOD COMPLETELY AND WOULD PROCEED
WITH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE DISCUSSIONS ON THAT BASIS.
LAUGHINGLY HE SAID "THIS INDEED IS NOT PRESSURE; IT IS BLACK-
MAIL". HE THEN PROCEEDED TO ASSURE ME OF HIS PERSONAL
CONVICTION THAT GOB WOULD MAKE EARLY DECISION ON MIDDLE EAST
FORCE NEGOTIATIONS, POSSIBLY BY END OF MAY AFTER PRIME
MINISTER'S RETURN FROM VISIT TO IRAN (HE DEPARTS MAY 24) AND,
IN ANY EVENT, NOT LATER THAN "MID-JUNE". I REITERATED
IMPORTANCE OF MEETING JUNE 13 DEADLINE.

4. I LEFT COPY OF DRAFT AGREEMENT WITH SHIRAWI WHO PROMISED
TO STUDY IT QUICKLY. ON BASIS PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION, HE

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APPEARED TO HAVE NO MAJOR PROBLEM WITH TBM X ET SO REVIEWED
WITH HIM LIST OF ADVISORS GOB HAS REQUESTED AND LEFT WITH
IMPRESSION GOB REQUEST IS HOLDING FIRM BOTH WITH RESPECT
TO TYPES OF ADVISORS DESIRED AND PRIORITIES.

TWYINAM

UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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